

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 154791 TOSEC 050057

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: JSWIHART

APPROVED BY S/S-O: LMATTESON

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S E C R E T STATE 154791 TOSEC 050057

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NO. 4: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. DEEPENING CHAOS IN LEBANON

WIRE SERVICES REPORT FROM BEIRUT THAT AFTER BEING DELAYED
OVER DIFFERENCES OVER A "MINOR POINT", A NEW SIX-MAN
CABINET HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE KARAME IS
EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY. MEANWHILE:

--HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN BEIRUT, WITH 43
REPORTED KILLED JUNE 30.

--ALL APPROACHES TO THE CITY EXCEPT THE ROAD TO THE
AIRPORT ARE BARRICADED BY VARIOUS PARAMILITARY GROUPS.

--MOST OTHER CITIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY MOSLEM
LEFTISTS, AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IS AT A STANDSTILL.

EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT AFTER SUFFERING SUBSTANTIAL
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 154791 TOSEC 050057

CASUALTIES, THE PHALANGISTS MAY BE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT A
POLITICAL COMPROMISE AND STAND DOWN IN THE FACE OF ITS
MEMBERS' SACRIFICES. MOREOVER:

--FEW LEBANESE PREDICT THAT THE MERE FACT OF A
NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO END THE SHOOTING.

--LEBANON IS CAUGHT IN WHAT HAS BEEN THUS FAR AN
UNRELIEVED TAILSPIN INTO DEEPENING CHAOS AND THE PROCLAM-
ATION OF A NEW CABINET, POSSIBLY COMING TOO LATE, WILL
ONLY BE A FIRST STEP ON THEROADBACK TO "NORMALCY."

INR COMMENT: IF KARAME FAILS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT THIS
WEEK, THERE IS A BETTER-THAN-EVEN RISK OF A CIVIL WAR
WORSE THAN THAT OF 1958, WITH GROWING LIKELIHOOD OF
SYRIAN AND ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ADJOINING LEBANESE
TERRITORY.

THUS FAR MOST FATAH AND SAIQA FORCES HAVE BEEN KEPT OUT OF
THE FIGHTING, BUT AN ALL-OUT PHALANGE OFFENSIVE WOULD
UNDOUBTEDLY COMPEL THEM TO INTERVENE IN FORCE.

THE EFFORT TO RESTORE ORDER HAS BEEN THUS FAR ASSIGNED TO
THE POLICE AND GENDARMERIE. SHOULD THE FIGHTING ESCALATE
INTO FULL-SCALE WAR, PRESIDENT FRANGIE WOULD PRESUMABLY
HAVE TO COMMIT THE ARMED FORCES, BUT AT THE RISK OF HAVING
THEM SPLIT ALONG SECTARIAN LINES AND DISAPPEAR AS A
COHESIVE FORCE.

2. IF LAO GOVERNMENT ENDORSES CURRENT PROTESTS...

EMBASSY VIENTIANE REPORTS THAT PGNU OFFICIALS AND STUDENT
LEADERS TOOK A HARD LINE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY
OFFICERS CONCERNING THE OCCUPATION OF EMBASSY FACILITIES.
THE LAOTIANS:

--VIEW UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES AS A VIOLATION
OF THE AGREEMENT TO DISBAND ALL "MILITARY AND PARA-
MILITARY" ORGANIZATIONS.

--OBJECTED TO EMBASSY ADMIN FACILITIES AND TO USIS
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 154791 TOSEC 050057

AS ENTITIES "RELATED" TO USAID.

--THREATENED THAT IF THE U.S. DOES NOT SIGN THE
FEOF AGREEMENT AND HELP HEAL LAOS' WAR WOUNDS,
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MAY NOT BE ESSENTIAL.

SEVERAL LAO SOLDIERS AND PROTESTORS HAVE TAKEN OVER A
USIS WAREHOUSE NEAR SILVER CITY, THE FOURTH FACILITY
TO BE OCCUPIED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE CHARGE PLANS TO TAKE UP THESE
ALLEGATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI. IF PHOUMI
INDICATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE LEGITIMACY

OF THE CURRENT OCCUPATIONS, OR IF HE IS UNWILLING TO
RESTRAIN THE PROTESTORS, WE MAY HAVE LITTLE CHOICE
BUT TO CLOSE THE MISSION.

3. INDIA UNDER INDIRA'S THUMB

EMBASSY NEW DELHI SENSES THAT THE SURPRISE AND SHOCK
PREVALENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION
HAS GIVEN WAY TO A MOOD OF UNEASE AND UNCERTAINTY, AND
REPORTS:

--WHILE THERE HAS BEEN SOME VIOLENCE SCATTERED
AROUND THE COUNTRY, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO SPREAD.

--CONGRESS PARTY MP'S, WHILE UNHAPPY, FEAR TO
SPEAK OUT.

--THE GOI HAS REWRITTEN THE CENSORSHIP RULES FOR
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO COVER ALL NEWS FROM OR
ABOUT INDIA, HAS PROMISED STRICT ENFORCEMENT, AND
HAS ALREADY EXPELLED LEWIS SIMONS OF THE WASHINGTON
POST.

(SEE ITEM 1 OF THE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

4. PREPCON: IRANIAN AND SAUDI VIEWS

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 154791 TOSEC 050057

IN MEETINGS WITH UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON:

--IRANIAN OFFICIALS AGREED WITH THE MAJOR ELEMENTS
OF THE US APPROACH TO A RENEWED PREPCON INCLUDING OPPOSITION
TO THE SAUDI CALL FOR A FOURTH COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS.

--YAMANI, HOWEVER, INSISTED ON THE FOURTH COMMISSION
AND WARNED THAT THE SEPTEMBER 24 OPEC MEETING MIGHT RAISE
OIL PRICES 30 TO 35 PERCENT UNLESS WELL BEFORE THAT TIME
THE PREPCON HAS MET AND AGREED ON A PROCEDURAL STRUCTURE.

5. TURKEY TO OFFER CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS?

TO COUNTER POSSIBLE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HESITENCY TO PRESS
CONGRESS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO, TURKISH SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS CHAIRMAN INAN CONFIDED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER:

--THE GOT, FROM DEMIREL DOWN, IS CONVINCED OF THE
NEED TO TAKE ACTION ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

--TIMING IS THE GREAT QUESTION, BUT THE GOVERNMENT

HOPES TO ANNOUNCE IN ADVANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT A PACKAGE OF GESTURES SIMILAR TO THOSE PREPARED BY THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER 1974.

--SPECIFICALLY, THE PLAN WOULD ALLOW THE RETURN OF 40,000-50,000 REFUGEES.

HOWEVER, INAN ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION NOT BE USED IN CONTACTS WITH CONGRESSMEN.

6. VENEZUELA'S PEREZ CRITICIZES US FOOD POLICY

AT A REGIONAL UN MEETING ON AGRICULTURE, PRESIDENT PEREZ CITED THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS AT HOUSTON FOR INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION AND CLAIMED THAT THESE PROPOSALS WERE OFFERED ONLY FOR MOMENTARY POLITICAL ADVANTAGE AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FORGOTTEN.

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PAGE 05 STATE 154791 TOSEC 050057

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE154791
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O: JSWIHART
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750227-0726
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaaobx.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971016
Subject: n/a
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006